



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acclaimed slave drama *FLIGHT* to be presented during March at Lincoln Presidential Museum

Museum's first production to commemorate 150th anniversary of the Civil War

SPRINGFIELD – The inspirational family drama *FLIGHT*, about the experience of slaves on an 1858 Georgia plantation, will be offered seven performances during March in the Union Theater at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. This is one of the first productions the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum will stage as part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Charlayne Woodard's play *FLIGHT* will be staged Thursday through Saturday, March 17 – 19, and Thursday through Sunday, March 24 – 27. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. for all Thursday through Saturday performances, and 4 p.m. for Sunday, March 27. All seats are \$12. Tickets for Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation Members are \$10. Call (217) 558-8934 for tickets.

In 1858, on a plantation near Savannah, Georgia, a young woman is suddenly sold, leaving behind her husband and their five-year-old son. Through an evening of storytelling, the enslaved community comes together, not only to comfort father and son but to heal and strengthen themselves. *FLIGHT* is an inspirational experience for the whole family. Based on actual slave narratives, as well as African and African American folktales, the play celebrates the African American oral tradition as it passes from generation to generation.

"I felt our first production in this year of commemoration needed to be a play that begins to tell the story of why the Civil War took place," said director Phil Funkenbusch. "This play is a 90-minute piece rooted in storytelling, and a good play for all ages."

When the play was performed in Pittsburgh, the *Tribune* there wrote: “Woodard’s drama is about the toll that slavery took on the human soul of blacks as well as the tools they employed to withstand the pain and triumph over it. Its universal themes and overall message transcend race, ethnicity and class.”

The cast features Toshianna Gorens, Christopher Roberts, Tracie Shaw, Joel Tinsley-Hall (all who appeared in the Presidential Museum’s production of the musical *The Civil War*) and Tiffany Williams, who appeared in the Muni’s *Big River*. The play is produced and directed by Phil Funkenbusch and Ed MacMurdo. *FLIGHT* is produced with generous support from Julie and William Cellini, R-Lou Barker and Barbara Archer.

Visit www.presidentlincoln.org for more information about programs and exhibits at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

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